

Y O U N G W O R K E R

Volume 1

December-January

Number 6

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MILITARISM UNDER CAPITALISM

ANTI-SEMITISM - A Capitalist Product

LETTERS From Our Readers

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Poetry , News Items

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I. JENSEN, Editor

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Militarism UNDER Capitalism

Militarism is an intricate, complex, many-sided institution by reason of its origin, nature, effects, and methods. It is a phenomenon deeply rooted in the life of class-organized societies, yet it can assume the most varied forms according to the special natural, political, and economic conditions of the historical economic system. It is an important manifestation of a social system because it expresses in the most concentrated form, the self-preservation of the exploiting class.

This means that permanently armed fighting forces have existed since society became divided into the opposing camps of propertied and propertyless classes. The very existence of militarism, its organization and aims has thus been dictated from the nature of class antagonisms through classical (slave) society, feudalism, and capitalism, our present exploiters (wage-slave) society.

The deciding factor in every social relationship of power is the superiority of physical force. (Intellectual force is a regulator of physical force.) Numerical proportion does not determine absolutely the relation of power. A weapon in the hands of an armed man increases his physical strength many times, (depending of course on the technical development of arms how many times this power is multiplied.) The economic superiority of one group of interests over another is turned into a downright physical superiority through the possession of arms or of better arms on the part of the ruling class. Thus is created by special armed forces the domination of class-conscious minorities over unarmed or poorly armed majorities.

From all this one may grasp the important role played by the technique of arms in the class struggles between modern wage workers and capitalists. There is nothing specifically capitalistic about militarism. An army under capitalism, although composed of the people, is not a people's army but an army against the people, against the vast majority, and shaped constantly with this end in view. It appears either as a standing army or a militia.

A capitalist army serves a double purpose. It is used to defend the interest of the bosses and their profit system in other parts of the world and to defend their interests at home from the attacks of the workers. In the U.S. the state militia or National Guards are employed mainly for the service at home, strike-breaking. The federal army, navy and marines take care of imperialist interests abroad. Countless numbers of times on the excuse of protecting lives and property, strikes have been invaded by guardsmen and broken. It is a familiar scene in the American arena. The domination of American imperialism in Latin America, Cuba and Philipines

give testimony to the use of sailors and federal soldiers in those lands. Wars of expansion are carried through only by use of such armed forces.

In some countries (England, France) colonial militarism occupies first place in importance of militarism. It is only through standing imperial troops in the colonies supplemented with colonial troops that these world empires are maintained. Egypt, India, Congo, Northern Africa, Palestine and numerous other colonies owe their servitude to such colonial militia. American Imperialism through "Dollar Diplomacy" gets away with a much cheaper form of colonial suppression.

Under the pretense of "civilizing" natives, armies abroad carry through the most horrible and brutal oppression and exploitation of colonial peoples, wringing out super profits from peonage. The resentment and revolts of natives are viciously suppressed by well-armed soldiers from the "mother" country. When the exploited colonial masses wish to defend their fatherland against the foreign conquerors and bloodsuckers, the army shoots them down mercilessly, cuts them to pieces with the sword and starves them out. The butchery of Pizarro and Cortez seems microscopic in comparison with that of modern imperialism.

As the class-consciousness of the workers grows, and class contradictions become sharper, militarism is used more regularly as the open tool of reaction against the workers' struggle for freedom and as a prop for the decaying capitalist system. This is the essence of fascist militarism.

Thus we are confronted by modern militarism which arms numbers of workers against the vast majority of people itself, forces some workers to become oppressors, enemies, and murderers of their own comrades and friends, of their parents, brothers, sisters and children.

EDUCATION OF A SOLDIER

The true military spirit means readiness at all times to strike at the enemy at home or abroad at the word of command.

"Theirs not ^{to} question why,
Theirs but to do and die!" So some poet once said.

To produce this spirit, perfect stupidity, or at least a very low level of intelligence is needed which makes it possible to drive the masses like a herd of cattle, in the directions dictated by the ruling interests. A general once said that he preferred a soldier who was loyal even though he were a bad shot, to one who was rebell-

ious even though he were an excellent shot. Here capitalist militarism is in a contradiction. The technique of arms, strategy, and tactics now make a great demand on the intelligence of the soldier and thereby the soldier who is intelligent is inclined to have too many disagreements. For this reason militarism recruits the less social conscious at the present time, outside of those workers who are forced into army life by prolonged unemployment. In this respect it must be pointed out that such armies as foreign legions are made up of the dregs of society and are the most bestial and most abominable tools employed by the boss class.

The French foreign legion is outstanding for its bloody suppressions of colonial natives. Yet it is played up in the movies as a gay adventurous group of brave heroes, defending "national honor". There is hardly a crime in the way of murder, destruction, arson, and plundering of natives that these scum have not committed in the interests of greedy capitalism.

In America recruiting stations for the army are often located in sections of the cities that are in easy reach of the lumpen proletariat. Literature that soldiers obtain is very carefully checked and watched so that the soldier reads the "right stuff" only.

But capitalism cannot exist only on a soldier who is not supposed to think, for it needs intelligent people as well. Troops composed of outcasts, lumpen proletariats, thugs, etc., can be used to advantage only with caution and within certain limits.

Slavishness and blind obedience, not being completely sufficient or practical, capitalist militarism uses round about methods to create shooting automatons. Favoritism, coaxing, self-exaltation and various moral and psychological devices are practiced. It must be remembered that although a working class youth of military age excels a bourgeois youth (capitalist) of the same age as regards independence and political insight, he is not so firm in his class consciousness. In the first place, the proletarian in uniform is cut off from his comrades and family by being shut in a camp, military fortress, arsenal, or barracks. The tendency is to prolong the isolation. In the second place, the most is made of the time allotted to influence the mental outlook of those being trained, to force it into the strait-jacket of blind obedience.

Ambition, variety, and adventure are excited. The uniform is proclaimed the best uniform. A soldier's honor is glorified as something especially dignified and the military caste is trumpeted as being the most important and respected. Militarism panders to man's love of adornment. Uniforms are trimmed with tinsel, stripes, decorations and petty glittering distinctions. Military bands sooth

the soldiers suffering with its bombastic pomp. These constitute a strong temptation for unenlightened elements in the population and army.

When everything has been done to put the soldier in a state of intoxication to deaden his soul, to fire his imagination, they begin to play on his reason. The teaching and lessons are crammed into him along with discipline and drill so that whether on or off duty the necessary elasticity and obedience is produced. Every individual is so mercilessly bent, tugged at, and twisted that often the strongest spine either bends or breaks. Religion is strongly encouraged, destined to complete the work of military oppression and enslavement.

Ill treatment of soldiers, not sanctioned by law, is perhaps the most effective of the coercive disciplinary methods of militarism. They attempt to tame as they tame wild beasts. They deaden the senses of the recruits, flatter, bribe, press, imprison, polish and flag them. The fact that a mass of men work together, the independence of the individual being lost, is of supreme importance for discipline. Their aim is to make the soldier become incapable of independent action.

The soldier used at home against the workers must be a slave, an automaton. War against an external enemy requires men. At home bright uniforms, glittering helmets, flags, bands and all such rubbish is necessary for domestic military rule. When fighting an external enemy these are not used because they are fatal.

The instillation of the spirit of servility and submission in the worker-soldiers, is detrimental to the working class as it helps further exploitation and retards the revolutionary struggle for freedom.

ARMY PROFITEERING.

Under capitalism there exists a whole flock of manufacturers, merchants and jobbers that live on nothing but their army contracts. They produce, transport, and distribute necessary articles for equipping, lodging and maintaining the soldiers. The more powerful of these hanger-ons of the army rule like princes over great communities and play first fiddle in the government. They wield their influence and exploit it, thanks to the permission and sanction of militarism. They repay militarism by becoming ardent advocates, their capitalist interest alone inciting them to do this. Who does not know of the hundreds of millions in profits given the steel trust, DuPont, uniform factories, food industries, arms plants, tank truck and petroleum industries? Each military campaign reaps a swindler's golden harvest for the pack of parasites.

The most reactionary strata of Capitalism is the military caste and its cliques. Even though they are our worst parasites in society they are given every privilege and honor. The entire tribe of Majors, Colonels, Generals, Captains are above the law and police. In times of great class strife they are the law. To support such an enormous army of parasites cost millions in salaries and pensions. The boss class realizes that very well, but it cannot help itself or do otherwise than support it. Every time legislation is needed for additional military appropriations the capitalist government dishes out even though they protest. For the watch dogs of capitalism must live in luxury and mingle with the "best." Gambling and drinking rows, scandals, debauchery, is hushed up and not publicized by the capitalist press. Militarism must remain honorable! The police are subordinate to the militarists. Many of the big shot militarists are capitalists themselves. They create a hierarchy which no outsider can penetrate, remaining aloof despite depressions, crises, etc.

A huge staff of civil service and technical employees are needed for the militarists. These employees are bribed by high wages which the military budget can easily supply.

The officers training schools (in America, West Point and Annapolis) are restricted mainly to sons of the rich. The reason is obvious. No ordinary soldier can reach beyond lieutenantship.

Railways, post, and telegraph, radio, power stations, etc., are institutions of such immense strategical importance in a war against the workers at home or an enemy abroad that they are guarded carefully by the military. A strike in them could cripple the entire military organism. Accordingly, they are watched and checked carefully for signs of revolt.

Militarism is an expression of the army itself and then as a system beyond the army which penetrates society as a network of organizations such as Veterans Legions, Reserved Officers, Military Clubs, Rifle Clubs, Athletics, soaking itself into the life of the population. Capitalism probably does not love its servant militarism, probably hates it because it tends to become so independent and expensive on capitalist taxes and treasuries; but it is an absolutely necessary evil.

Over the entire world today military budgets are the greatest single expense in every capitalist nation. Education is far down the list of expenditures. Relief of unemployment in the U.S. supporting about seven million people amounts to less than the total amount spent for armaments and the army and navy budgets.

THE FIGHT AGAINST CAPITALIST MILITARISM

The army service is a harsh service. Tackling militarism means tackling a hornets nest. Active opposition involves bucking up against the most drastic laws and capitalist savagery. Still it can be done. This is the duty, the major duty of the Young Workers League.

Revolutionists are not opposed to armed forces generally. What we are opposed to is the exploiters armed forces, CAPITALIST militarism. We are in favor of arming the people, of WORKING CLASS ARMED FORCES. Yes, as Bolsheviks we desire the creation of defense corps, workers shock troops, Red Guards, and a Workers Red Army. These will be used against the Capitalist class. For the struggle for Communism includes military politics to be used in the progressive revolutionary struggle of the workers to smash the exploiter system and establish a workers council government based on workers control of production for use.

* * * * *

Excerpt from "DISSERTATIONS OF MR. DOOLEY"

By Finlay Dunne

"Don't ask f'r rights. Take thim. An' don't let anny wan give thim to ye. A right that is handed to ye f'r nawthin' has somethin' the matther with it. It's more than likely it's on'y a wrong turned inside out."

And the lesson to be learned -- CLASS COLLABORATION NEVER GOT A WORKER ANYTHING BUT MORE SLAVERY. CLASS STRUGGLE WILL BREAK THE CHAINS WHICH BIND THE WORKING CLASS.

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Antisemitism -- Product of Capitalism

Capitalism in its present stage of decay is just like a pot of boiling water with all the scum rising to the top. All the contradictions of the capitalist system give way to the most vicious anti-semitism imaginable.

Shunted from pillar to post, hounded and brow beaten and even threatened with extinction, the Jewish people are still blindly groping for a solution to their problem. Like a drowning person grasping a floating straw to save himself, so did the Jewish people swell the ranks of the Zionist movement as a way out, and for forty three years Zionism has not only proven its utter bankruptcy at solving the Jewish problem but also exposed itself as a weapon in the hands of the British ruling class in checking the fight of the Arab masses for national independence.

The essence of Zionism -- is to get representation for the Jewish people through a national homeland -- is as false today as it was in 1897 when Dr. Herzl gave birth to it. To get representation for the Jewish people in a decaying capitalist world is to confuse the entire issue. To separate the Jewish worker from the Gentile worker as Zionism does is to weaken the Jewish worker instead of strengthening him.

We must smash any attempts -- Zionist or Fascist -- at dividing the working class into Jews and non-Jews, Jews and Aryans, white and Negro, etc. It is this very scheme that fits in with the plans of world capitalism to keep the working class divided.

A new danger has arisen and that fits in with the plans of the British war against Hitler Germany and U.S. Capitalism in its propaganda against Hitler. The Jewish People have come to the erroneous conclusion that the doom of Hitler and the black reaction which it stands for will alleviate the suffering of the Jewish people in Europe. A few days before the fall of Poland, Jewish workers of France volunteered to fight for Poland. These Jewish workers were willing to sacrifice their lives for the defense of one type of reaction against another -- capitalism in any form is the root of Anti-Semitism. Anti-Semitism as well as persecution of Negroes is a method used by the world Bourgeoisie to side-track the fight of the world working class away from the main enemy, Capitalism. It is a scheme to divide and rule. The sharper the contradictions of capitalism the more vicious and ruthless are its blows. Capitalism in Italy and Germany is no more vicious than in other countries because the contradictions in these two countries are sharper.

However bleak the situation for the Jews at present, there still remains a very tangible and not too distant ray of hope. In Czarist

Russia, when pogroms and Anti-Semitism were organized state institutions similar to present day Germany, solution of the Jewish problem was automatically linked with the overthrowing of Capitalism.

Lenin and the Bolshevik Party understood the problem facing the Jewish as well as Gentile worker. They broke through obstacles erected by Zionism and joined hands with the Jewish masses on the simple program of "land, bread, peace" which later proved their irresistible revolutionary character.

In all the past decades of Jewish tears, degradation and despair there is no greater consolation, and historic lesson, than the glorious achievements through the Russian Revolution. With one stroke of the Revolutionary ax, decades of oppression and pogroms were hacked away. The Jews became more free than they ever were in their entire history. For the first time since their exile the Jews were once more a free and united people. Their culture restored and protected by the workers revolutionary government, Anti-Semitism was vigorously suppressed and later became a capital offense.

We do not wish to imply that the Jewish question in the Soviet Union has been solved. This question cannot be solved within the framework of an isolated Soviet State anymore than all other questions confronting the working class. Indeed Anti-Semitism still crops out here and there in the Soviet Union. Twenty years of soviet power could hardly be enough time to wipe out the heritage of centuries of feudal and capitalist ideology. Moreover, since the degenerating influences of the Stalinist bureaucracy have permeated all Soviet institutions, anti-Semitism has received a corresponding encouragement.

The victorious working class revolution lays the basis for a solution, but only Socialism with the elimination of class divisions, economic insecurity, national prejudice and geographic boundaries can solve the problem in its entirety.

The Jewish workers and especially the Jewish youth must organize together with others into workers defense squads to defend the democratic rights of the masses against the enemy and especially against any Fascist attempt to invade our neighborhoods.

*Fight War & Fascism by Fighting
Capitalism!*

Capitalism "Solves" Youth Problem

Behind a clack of solicitous words, the American Youth Commission headed by Owen D. Young, well known financier, has brought in a report which is designed to "solve" the conditions of the youth, but which, in reality, is an attempt to force the youth to unprotestingly accept the fact that decay capitalism cannot provide them jobs and security.

The Commission begins its report by "warning" that the "continued pressure of unemployment on youth, in the midst of a war boom, will add to the danger of drifting into active participation in the war". While this is intended to express "opposition" to ACTIVE entry into the war, it clearly exposes the deep decay of the boss system. For example, first the Commission openly admits that even in the "war boom", there is the "CONTINUED PRESSURE of unemployment on youth". In other words, although the bosses are making millions of dollars in profits from the war, the decay of the capitalists system is so advanced that even this cannot provide jobs for the millions of unemployed youth (or older workers).

Second, when the Commission speaks of the "danger of ACTIVE participation in the war" they thereby admit that U.S. Imperialism is ALREADY participating ECONOMICALLY in the war, cleaning up millions of dollars in profit, pushing England and Germany out of the South American markets, etc. And because of the deep-going decay of the boss system, because of the needs of American imperialism to attempt to achieve political as well as economic hegemony of the world, this participation will inevitably, despite pious words to the contrary, lead to ACTIVE participation. On this basis, it is clear that the entire capitalist system stands condemned that it cannot provide jobs for the unemployed, and that it will inevitably be driven to war as a result of its internal contradictions of which unemployment is one expression.

ADMIT MILLIONS MUST REMAIN JOBLESS

Next this Commission of Young and his fellow capitalists (Harriman, ex-president of the US Chamber of Commerce, Budd, president of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad, Wood, chairman of the board of Sears, Roebuck, Co.) openly admit that the millions of unemployed youth are destined to remain in a state of unemployment, that no jobs can be found for them. Let them speak for themselves and admit the bankruptcy of their system: "No good purpose can be served by blaming the young person who has not found a job for himself. The facts of arithmetic cannot be washed away....There are several million more young men and women who want to work than there are jobs available for them." So, the youth want to work, but capitalism, according to these gentlemen can't give them jobs. What, then,

do they propose?

COOLIE WAGES, PEONAGE FOR THE YOUTH

The Commission proposes not only a continuation of the present Federal Works Programs that include "conservation activities (the militarized CCC) and the construction of useful public buildings" (including armories, air ports, etc. -- of course these gentlemen don't want war) but they propose a huge and extensive program of "producing the goods and services which are needed by the young people themselves and by others who are unemployed and in need." Such a plan "is preferable to unemployment or to the levels of taxation which would be necessary to support a decent level of subsistence for those in need.. IF they are not to be allowed to do anything for themselves." The meaning of this plan is of extreme importance, for in actuality it means the establishment of a system that will not aid the unemployed but will PERMANENTLY SHACKLE them under a system of government peonage on a "subsistence level" of about \$33.00 per month! Let us analyse it in detail.

First, they wish to continue the present CCC camps which is providing cannon fodder at the rate of 300,000 young workers per year. But in addition to this, they speak (in the most abstract terms, to be sure, but their deadly meaning is clear) of production of the "goods and services which are needed for the young people" and they also point out that this will not be "competition with private business". What these capitalist representatives mean is that the millions of young unemployed should be put to work producing consumers goods which they and others who are unemployed and are in need" must have. We thus see that this boss agency admits that there are millions who ARE in need. But the most important thing is that their plan to "solve" this basic need is the establishment of government controlled factories, public work projects, etc. where millions of youth will be employed at coolie wages; and when we say COOLIE WAGES we mean just that, for the Commission states quite definitely: "The actual cost will not, however, be as great as might be thought The expenditures per individual young worker need not exceed \$ 400.00 per year, with "deductible assets (!)" mean less than \$34.00 per month, less than \$8.00 per week! THAT IS A COOLIE WAGE. THAT IS NOT EVEN what the Commission terms a "decent level of subsistence." THAT IS DECAY CAPITALISM FORCING ECONOMIC PEONAGE ON MILLIONS OF UNEMPLOYED TO WHOM IT CANNOT PROVIDE JOBS!!!

These are the same "liberal" capitalists who howl about "fascist dictatorship" who yell against "Hitlerism" and praise their "democracy". But anyone who is half-way familiar with Hitler's "solution" of the unemployed problem in Germany knows that it is precisely by such methods that Hitler "ended" unemployment. The Fascists simply established forced labor battalions for "conservation activities and the construction of useful public buildings" (to use the Commission's own words) which are now used to a greater extent in the prosecution of the war of German imperialism. This is the inevitable conclusion of the plan which Young and his fellow capitalist representatives present. --- the maintenance of the system of unemployment, with production of public works and consumers goods at coolie wage, the attempt to maintain an enforced economy of scarcity in the midst of abundance --- that is the "solution" of the best brains of the boss class.

EDUCATION RESTRICTED - "VOACTIONAL" TRAINING

Turning to the educational sphere, Young & Co. get into another contradiction -- an expression of the insolvable problem they are trying to solve -- but at the same time they take another blow at the standards and aims of the youth. According to the Commission, school attendance should not be compulsory after the age of 16 "because above the age of 16 many young people who would benefit from the training of a job would be wasting their time in school". But, gentlemen, you have already admitted that "there are several million more young men and women who want to work (on the present age levels of school attendance) than there are jobs available for them." So how can the youth "waste time in school" if there are no jobs no matter HOW LONG they go to school??? This is another indication of the bankruptcy of the system -- and the solutions of the bosses such Young and Co. But there is a reason for this. They DON'T WANT the youth to get too much education because they know that the youth will inevitably begin to use this training to figure out WHY there are no jobs available for them, why (as Dorothy Thompson has stated) their ability no longer offers assurance of success. They fear this. So they talk about "wasted time in school" when they know there are no jobs. In plain language, this is the worst kind of lying fakery.

THE COMMISSION REPORT IS AN ADMISSION OF BANKRUPTCY

Many times when we revolutionary youth have pointed out similar facts as those of the American Youth Commission, many young workers have sneered at us as a bunch of "reds", etc, but we have always contended, and been able to prove, that what

we said was true. Now we have a Commission composed of some of the ablest representatives of the boss class which, as we have analysed, and now summarized, admits that while the bosses will make profits in the war (and will inevitably ACTIVELY enter it) it will not provide jobs for the unemployed (2) more concretely, they take for granted that there is no solution to the problem of unemployment, so they propose (3) to cut down on education (4) to establish a system of forced labor at \$33.00 per month, coolie subsistence for the millions of unemployed youth, etc.

We of the Editorial Board can only say to Mr. Young & Co. that we thank them heartily for presenting their report for they thereby OPENLY ADMIT THE BANKRUPTCY OF THE BOSS SYSTEM..

We can only say to the millions of American Youth about whose plight this report deals, that they should become as aware of these conditions as the boss class is, that they must organize in order to end the conditions of permanent unemployment, stop the plans of forced labor a coolie wages and the ACTIVE participation in the war which the boss class is planning, and join in the struggle with us for the overthrow of this admittedly rotten hunger system and the building of a workers society with a Workers Council Government based on Workers Control of Production for Use.

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To Our Readers —

We know that our paper the YOUNG WORKER is reaching ever greater numbers of youth. We want our youth readers to feel that the YOUNG WORKER is THEIR paper, expressing their interests and sentiments. We have tried to make it so and will continue to improve. So let's go, Young Workers, Students, Unemployed, -- let us hear from you. We want to know what are the conditions in your shop, factory, school or neighborhood. What are your problems?

What do the youth you are acquainted with think of war, labor, socialism, etc? The YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE is the only revolutionary youth organization that fights in the interest of the working class. Being such we naturally want to "keep our fingers on the pulse of American youth." We don't care how small or large your correspondence is, how poorly or well written. We are trying to build up a regular Young Workers Correspondence and Here's a tip. Invite your contacts and friends to write also. Yours for a better Revolutionary Youth Press!

I. JENSEN, Editor

Dorothy Thompson is Haunted

Dorothy Thompson, well known columnist, is "haunted". "I" have been haunted by a little item," she writes in her daily column of November 28th. "The Y.N.C.A. (of New York) polled representative cross section of employed and unemployed youth regarding their belief in opportunity, and found that 80% believe that ability no longer offers assurance of success in America."

When Miss Thompson says she is "haunted" what she really means is that she, as one of the most perceptive and intelligent watch-dogs of capitalism, is getting worried, NOT ABOUT THE PLIGHT OF THE YOUTH, but about what they might do about their miserable plight. The fact that 80% of the youth already recognize that no matter how hard they try, their own efforts can not bring security means that the overwhelming majority of young workers are beginning to recognize that capitalism is in decay. And Miss Thompson knows as well as we that this is the first sign toward ACTION TO END THE INSECURITY OF DECAY CAPITALISM. She, as well as her capitalist masters, has good reason, therefore, to be haunted.

In an opposite sense, this also means that we of the revolutionary section of the youth have good reason to plunge straight ahead with our message of revolutionary struggle as the solution to the problems of insecurity, unemployment, war and hunger that the decaying boss system offers to the youth. The fact that 4/5 of the youth recognize that something fundamental is wrong is our signal to drive with greater energy to convince them by propaganda and action WHAT is wrong and HOW to right it -- which means, and we are sorry if it will give nightmares to Miss Thompson and the other faithful stooges of the boss class, the building of a New Communist Youth International to help in the struggle for the overthrow of the broken-down system of production for profit with its misery and insecurity for the workers and youth, and the establishment of a Workers Council Government based on Production for Use under Workers Control.

NOT A MAN NOT A PENNY
FOR BOSSES WAR
ALL WAR FUNDS TO THE UNEMPLOYED!

Letters From Our Readers

Dear Comrade Jensen:

I have been unemployed for three months. According to the newspapers the bosses seem to be making a lot of profit from the war, but the more I tramp around looking for work the more it seems that these profits are made with still millions of unemployed.

In October I applied for a WPA job; the social worker said I had a "nice work record". I suppose she meant by that I have worked as long as sixty hours a week for \$14.00. But I have received no assignment.

Finally as my funds were running low I went down to apply for relief. After taking my name the social worker asked me how old I was; when I told him 21, he stated that a new law has just been passed by the State Legislature that single men must now be 24 before they can vouch for themselves in applying for relief; otherwise they must bring their parents! In other words you might have worked since the time you were 16 or so for a lousy \$12.00 or \$14.00 a week, but when you get unemployed at the age of 21 or 22 you have to have your parents to vouch for you. I suppose the State Legislature thinks that unless you are 24 you don't have to eat when you are unemployed.

I was good and sore when I left the relief station at 11th and State. I was walking back to the Loop when I was stopped at Harrison and State by a guy in an army uniform. "Buddy," he said, "why don't you join the army? Good pay, eats and..." I told him that I'd be damned if I'd fight in the interests of the profit of Morgan and Rockefeller when these bosses won't give us jobs.

But I didn't have to walk another block before I saw the connection. At 18 the bosses say you are old enough to enlist in the army and fight for their profit system. But you have to be 24 before you are old enough to state that you need relief, and no wonder that this recruiting campaign is so successful! Plenty of fellows like me who can't even get relief let alone a WPA job, are so desperate that they join the army so they can eat three times a day.

It's pretty clear to me that this strategy of the bosses who will exploit you for long hours for low wages, then throw you out of a job, then refuse you relief so they can grab you in the army, is rotten to the core. I have been reading the Young Worker for some time, but it is not published often enough. I think that it is swell in exposing the bosses war plans and

exploitation of the workers. I'm pretty sore about the whole rotten business but I think it's time I did more than just talk about it. I'm pretty broke but if you will send me ten copies of the next YOUNG WORKER I will try to sell them. Because I think other fellows should learn what's going on and what to do about it.

What we need is a real fighting organization of the young workers to struggle against the bosses and their war plans. I want to help so please send me the YOUNG WORKERS and other material, and notify me of your meetings.

Fraternally,

Carl N.

Our Reply

Dear Comrade Carl N.:

I was very glad to receive your letter of November 26th, glad to see that you are aware of the war plans of the exploiters of the horrible plight in which millions of us young workers now find ourselves.

The information you give about this new relief law is very important. All over the country the bosses are tightening up and restricting relief. This new law, that you have to be 24 to get on relief, certainly seems to be most vicious. And, I think you are 100% correct that this fits right in to the war plans of the Roosevelt government which is now doubling the size of the army and recruiting thousands of young workers who cannot find jobs.

Everywhere this process of exploitation and misery for the unemployed continues and worsens. I was reading the paper last night where the bosses were quite jubilant that in the steel area (Calumet) business was booming. They stated that over 8,000 men had gone to work in the last month...but still an increase in WPA was necessary. Moreover the news dispatch boastfully declared that over \$2,000,000 per month was being paid to the steel barons in wages....but to 30,300 workers. A little simple arithmetic will show that the average monthly wage is not more than \$33.50 PER MONTH!! And this in the key steel industry area. This shows the terrific exploitation of the workers under the speed-up of the drive for war profits.

On the other hand, in connection with the relief problem, last night's papers carried a dispatch from Toledo, Ohio where

schools have been closed for several weeks; and now relief is totally cut off for thousands of unemployed. The bosses declare that the unemployed are easily finding jobs now that they have to shift for themselves. But if in the basic steel industry wages are averaging a low \$33.50 per month, we can well imagine what the thousands of Toledo unemployed who are "so easily finding work" are making! And despite the talk about how easy it is to find work, we know that there are still 13,000,000 unemployed, we know that the vast majority of these Toledo unemployed are now actually starving to death.

Only 100 miles away, in Cleveland, the bosses and their politicians have again totally stopped relief for the second time in 18 months. Cleveland, one of the key industrial centers of the U.S. has almost a third of the workers unemployed for years. And now, as in Toledo they are supposed to go out and find jobs.....or starve completely.

And since you mention the army recruiting plans, it is well to point out that thousands of veterans in Cleveland have had their vet compensation stopped too and are starving with the rest of the unemployed while the bosses and their politicians play football with the misery of the unemployed.

The above mentioned events have all occurred within the past week. They as well as hundreds of others are typical of the exploitation, misery and hunger which the working class suffers under the bosses profit system. And they show how the capitalists are driving with might and main to FURTHER worsen these conditions as they move toward entry into the second imperialist war for the redivision of the world.

I am glad that you understand these things, especially that you want to help the YOUNG WORKER explain them to others. I am sending you the ten copies. We are endeavoring to issue the paper more regularly. We welcome your help. For as you say, the crying need of the young workers under these conditions of boss class exploitation and war drive is the building of a NEW REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH LEAGUE, of a NEW COMMUNIST YOUTH INTERNATIONAL. I am glad that we can count on you to participate in this work.

Comradely yours,

I. Jensen

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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
BUREAU OF THE ARMY

TO THE DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF THE ARMY
FROM THE DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF THE ARMY
SUBJECT: [Illegible]

Very truly yours,
[Illegible Signature]

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